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To the Courteous Reader

The commencement of a new volume of the "Magazine of Music" affords a welcome opportunity of addressing a few words to you. We venture to regard you as one of the many Friends of Music, who, during the past twelve months have followed, and in a sense, have shaped the fortunes of the Magazine. Music is the most social of all the Arts. The highest artistic delight in painting or sculpture may be received in solitary contemplation. The pleasures of Music, on the other hand, are best obtained by co-operation; and the loftiest of all forms of Music can only be enjoyed by the common effort of many kindred spirits. A similar co-operation is needed for the best work in all matters relating to music; you have helped to make the Magazine of the past year, with whatever enlightening and refreshing influences it may have possessed; you, and the confraternity of readers — a confraternity you may readily aid in enlarging month by month — will have a great part in shaping the Magazine of the Future.

On our part we shall not be slow to promote schemes for the common interest. The first is an attempt to gather the opinion of the majority in the Realm of Tone, as to the living Musicians and the compositions entitled to rank as the Greatest. The general judgment in Politics is collected at the ballot-box; in Music there has hitherto been no attempt to ascertain the tendency of education and taste. The result of our appeal to the Great Musical Constituency cannot fail to be widely

regarded

Next Month's "Magazine of Music" (May) will contain New Song, words by the well-known writer GEORGE MACDONALD, music by EBENEZER PROUT, B.A. In addition to the Piano Accompaniment, there will be ad libitum Harmonium Accompaniment.

regarded with interest by musicians; and in addition it will possess a value for the student of social culture. You will see that this interest and value will be enhanced in proportion to the extent of the Plebescite: this rests with you and with those, who, in the language of politics have power to lead many to the Poll.

The general characters of the new volume of the Magazine will be most satisfactorily learned by turning over the following pages. These pages are not few; and, on the whole, we think they are not indifferently filled. If you wish to keep abreast of musical affairs you have a pretty full record to scan; if you seek instruction you will find your digestion provided for; if you desire entertainment from the rich fields of musical Romance there are several gleaners working for you; if you need the stimulus of competition, material inducements are not wanting; if you long for music from the living Masters of Song-craft (and who does not) you have but to take our Music Supplement to the piano.

To widen the Domain of Music is no unworthy ambition; the sway of the Lords of Tone is no unworthy subjection. As a courteous reader, and member of the inner brotherhood of Music, we desire your hearty aid in bringing the outer multitudes under willing dominion.

The Editor

New Song, "THE PRINCESS OF THULE," post free 24 stamps. Compass: Baritone or Contralto, B flat to E flat; Tenor or Soprano, D to G.

PRESS NOTICE.—"A PERFECT GEM in Song writing, and our advice is, GET IT."—*The Professional.*